

IN THE CLAIMS

Claim 1. (Currently Amended) A cooking utensil for cooking a food by using predetermined heating means, said cooking utensil comprising:

(a) means for setting a maintenance time setting means
capable of by arbitrarily setting a time for executing
maintenance items, said execution time being settable for each
of said maintenance items; [and

informing means for informing the execution time set by
the maintenance time setting means]

(b) means for informing a user of said execution time for
each one of said maintenance items set by said maintenance time
setting means; said informing means displays a predetermined
sign on an operating panel of said cooking utensil for said
heating means; and

(c) means for displaying one of said maintenance items
after said predetermined sign is displayed in response to a
predetermined operation of a switch provided on said operating
panel.

Claim 2. (Currently Amended) A cooking utensil as claimed in claim 1, wherein the execution time is defined as a time when a standard date is set in a predetermined cycle based on a calendar function has expired expiring.

Claim 3. (Currently Amended) A cooking utensil as claimed in claim 1 ~~or claim 2~~, wherein the execution time is defined as a time when a cumulative value of the operating time of the heating means has reached a predetermined standard time.

38
Claim 4. (Previously Presented) A cooking utensil as claimed in claim 1, wherein the execution time is defined as a time when a cumulative value of the number of times of the operation of the heating means has reached a predetermined standard number of times.

Claim 5. (Canceled)

Claim 6. (Previously Presented) A cooking utensil as claimed in claim 1, wherein the set execution time can be arbitrarily changed.

Claim 7. (Currently Amended) A cooking utensil as claimed in claim [[1]] 2, wherein[[[,] after informing the execution time, said information is automatically called off by performing the corresponding one of said maintenance [work] items.

Claim 8. (Currently Amended) A cooking utensil as claimed in claim [[1]] 2, wherein, after the information has

been called off, a next execution time can be automatically set on the same cycle condition.

Claims 9 and 10. (Canceled)

38
Claim 11. (Previously Presented) A cooking utensil as claimed in claim 2, wherein the execution time is defined as a time when a cumulative value of the number of times of the operation of the heating means has reached a predetermined standard number of times.

Claim 12. (Currently Amended) A cooking utensil as claimed in claim [[3]] 2, wherein the execution time is defined as a time when a cumulative value of the number of times of the operation of the heating means has reached a predetermined standard number of times.

Claims 13-16. (Canceled)

Claim 17. (Previously Presented) A cooking utensil as claimed in claim 3, wherein the set execution time can be arbitrarily changed.

Claim 18. (Previously Presented) A cooking utensil as claimed in claim 4, wherein the set execution time can be arbitrarily changed.

Claim 19. (Canceled)

38
Claim 20. (Currently Amended) A cooking utensil as claimed in claim 2[[,]] wherein[[,]] after informing the execution time, said information is automatically called off by performing the corresponding one of said maintenance ~~work~~ items.

Claim 21. (Currently Amended) A cooking utensil as claimed in claim 3[[,]] wherein[[,]] after informing the execution time, said information is automatically called off by performing the corresponding one of said maintenance ~~work~~ items.

Claim 22. (Currently Amended) A cooking utensil as claimed in claim 4[[,]] wherein[[,]] after informing the execution time, said information is automatically called off by performing the corresponding one of said maintenance ~~work~~ items.

Claim 23. (Canceled)

B8
Claim 24. (Currently Amended) A cooking utensil as claimed in claim 6[[,]] wherein[[,]] after informing the execution time, said information is automatically called off by performing the corresponding one of said maintenance work items.

Claims 25-37. (Canceled)